

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action dated November 18, 2005, Applicants have, by the foregoing, amended the specification as well as claims 1 and 23. Claims 9, 15, 16, 17, 26, 32 and 33, while remaining in the application, have been withdrawn from consideration. Substantively, remaining in the application are independent claim 1 with its dependent claims 2-8 and 10-14; and independent claim 23 with its dependent claims 24, 25, 27 and 28.

In the Drawings and Specification

The Office Action indicates that the drawings are objected to because the same include reference numbers that are not mentioned in the description. Responsive to this objection, the foregoing amendments to the Specification, which add the omitted reference characters to the description, are proposed for review and consideration by the Examiner.

In the first sentence of original paragraph [0032] and again in original paragraph [0034] discussing a method of assembly, it is stated that fluid line connector assembly **200** is substantially identical to fluid line connector assembly **100**, which is shown in FIGURES 3 and 4 and described in at least original paragraphs [0028]-[0031]. Thereafter, original paragraphs [0032] and [0033] describe in detail the additional elements of connector assembly **200**. In this regard, the Examiner may recognize that the reference numbers shown in FIGURES 5 and 6 correspond to the assemblies, components, features and elements of connector assembly **100** incremented by 100.

As such, the proposed discussion of connector assembly **200** substantially reflects the description of connector assembly **100** provided in original paragraphs [0028]-[0031], only with the item numbers incremented by 100 to correspond with connector assembly **200** in FIGURES 5 and 6. Accordingly, no amendments to the drawings are provided or believed necessary. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and that no new matter has been entered.

In the Claims

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-8, 10-13, 23-25, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,817,996 to Fouts. The Office Action further indicates that claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious, and therefore unpatentable, over Fouts in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,357,669 to Lake.

Fouts is directed to a reusable fitting assembly **10** for a reinforced hose **44** having an inner rubber or elastomeric tube **54** and an outer tubular reinforcement layer **55**. The fitting assembly includes a nipple **11**, a swivel adapter **12** and a socket **13**. The nipple includes an elongated cylindrical portion **26** that extends into the open end of inner tube **54** of the reinforced hose. The socket **13** is received along reinforcement layer **55** of reinforced hose **44** such that the same is captured between the socket and cylindrical portion **26** of the nipple. The swivel adapter includes an elongated cylindrical portion (not numbered) that has a sharp forward edge **32**.

During assembly, swivel adapter **12** is threaded into socket **13** and sharp forward edge **32** cuts into the end wall of elastomeric tube **54**. This action causes the reinforced hose to expand and fill the space between the socket and the elongated cylindrical portion of the nipple. Thus, all three fitting bodies engage the reinforced hose and contribute to the formation of a fluid-tight seal therewith. Fouts does not, however, teach or suggest an arrangement in which the fluid-tight seal is formed using only two of the fitting components, as recited in the claims presented herein. Said differently, the device in Fouts would not function as intended if elongated cylindrical portion **26** of nipple **11** is not in contact with the elastomeric tube. Whereas, the present claims recite a connector assembly in which the third fitting body is spaced from or otherwise operatively disassociated with the tubing.

Lake discloses a fitting assembly similar to that shown in FIGURES 1 and 2 of the present application. As such, the device in Lake is subject to all of the same problems and difficulties described in the present application with regard to known devices, such as the assembly shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, for example. What's more, Lake does not provide teachings sufficient to overcome the deficiencies of Fouts, which are discussed above with regard to the currently presented claims.

In light of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the subject claims, as presently presented, define over the art of record and are allowable.

CONCLUSION

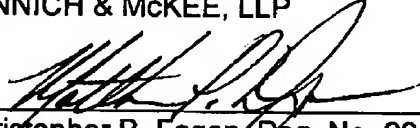
It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments and discussion are fully responsive to the latest Office Action. Reconsideration of the claims, as amended, and an early notice of allowability are earnestly solicited.

Alternatively, in the interests of compact prosecution and advancing this application to issue, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss any of the foregoing and/or to make any suggestions that the Examiner may have to place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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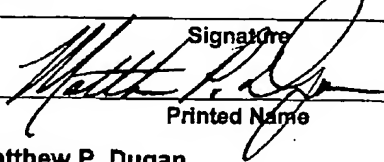
18 February 2006
Date


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

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Date 18 February 2006	Printed Name Matthew P. Dugan

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